GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1507
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
KHADI SALES OUTLETS
Sharma Shri Madan Lal

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Khadi sales outlets of Khadi and Village Industries Commission have been closed down;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve and modernise Khadi products for better acceptability and popularity?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c): The steps taken by the Government and KVIC to improve and modernise khadi products for better acceptability and popularity include the following:

(i) KVIC has entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Textiles Committee, a statutory autonomous body set up by the Ministry of Textiles under the Textiles Committee Act, 1963, under which the Textiles Committee has agreed to make available their laboratory infrastructure for checking quality of khadi cloth. Interfaces have also been established with reputed Research and Development (R&D) institutes to extend results of their R&D efforts to KVI units.

(ii) Technical manual, specifications and norms for test quality parameters of Khadi have been devised and published in a booklet form with the assistance of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. The technical manual prescribes the procedure to be adopted while checking samples of raw material, sliver, yarn, fabric etc. used in the production of Khadi, which is expected to ensure the quality of Khadi products.

(iii) In technical collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, KVIC has introduced special finishing technique in the khadi sector to improve the quality and appearance of khadi products and a process facility has been created at Kshetriya Shri Khadi Ashram, Barabanki (Uttar Pradesh) on a pilot basis.

(iv) KVIC has set up 6 sliver plants in different parts of the country to ensure supply of quality sliver to the khadi institutions.

(v) Rural Industries Service Centres (RISCs) have been established by the KVIC for setting up common facility centres (CFCs).

(vi) Financial assistance is provided under Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved designs and packaging of khadi products;

(vii) Credit at a concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum has been provided by banks as per the assessed requirement of the institutions registered with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) under the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme.

(viii) The 'Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)' has been launched for developing around 34 khadi clusters throughout the country over five years beginning 2005-06.